

'Height of Stupidity'

Johnson Aide Denies

Compiled by Our Latin America Staff

Contacting Exiles

WASHINGTON - Richard

Goodwin, White House assistant, has denied he served as a go-between for President Johnson and Cuban exile leader Manuel Ray.

"Even if it were true I would deny it," said Goodwin, "but the idea is ridiculous."

"It would be the height of stupidity to choose a member of the White House staff for that business."

It had been reported that Goodwin was the contact with Ray and that the Central Intelligence Agency had given funds to Ray with the approval of the White House. Rumors involving Cuban exiles have been rampant the past week.

Ray, head of the Cuban Revolutionary Junta (JURE), had promised a year ago to be back inside Cuba by last Wednesday to begin a new underground war against Fidel Castro. His whereabouts are not now known.

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